AUGUST 1989

ACADEMIC MEDICINE

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

The McMaster M.D. Program

Capital Investment for Biomedical Research

Community Oriented, Primary Health Services

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Editorial: Change in Medical Education

ECFMG Clinical Skills Examination

Medical Education Evaluation Program of Ohio

Predicting Medical School Admissions

Evaluating Clinical Students

Black and White Students' Perceptions

AAMC Data Report: 1989 NRMP Results

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AAMC DATA REPORT
Results of the NRMP for 1989

The number of U.S. seniors who enrolled in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) in 1989 decreased by 338 from a year ago[1] and was 741 less than in 1985,[2] when the number of U.S. seniors enrolled peaked. The number who subsequently withdrew increased by 23 (Table 1), but the number of active applicants decreased by 382. The number who were unmatched decreased by 101 (0.5 percentage point).

The total number of U.S. and Canadian citizens (U.S. seniors, "fifth pathway" students, physician candidates [earlier U.S. graduates who are seeking a position in graduate medical education], and osteopathic and Canadian graduates) who applied to the Match this year decreased by 123. Among the other U.S. and Canadian citizens, the number of "fifth pathway" applicants increased from 163 to 171; 131 participated in the Match, and 76% were successful. The number of graduates of osteopathic schools who initially applied to the Match increased by 114 to 1,272, almost a fivefold increase since 1983; 65% were matched. The number of physician applicants increased by 6 percentage points, and 47% were successful in the Match.

The number of U.S. citizen foreign medical graduates (FMGs) who applied decreased by 20 to 1,515, only slightly more than half of the number in 1984; 53% were successfully matched, an increase of 10 percentage points. The number of alien FMGs remained about the same at 4,094, and the percentage matched increased by 10 percentage points to 54%.

The number of positions offered for the first postgraduate year (PGY-1) increased by 442; 289 more were offered in the generalist specialties than in 1988 (Table 2). "Generalist" specialties are defined as family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, and pediatrics. The ratio of positions per initially enrolled applicants was 0.8; that of positions per all U.S. senior and other U.S.-Canadian citizen applicants was 1.0, an increase of .01 percentage point; and that per U.S. senior was 1.3, also a .01 percentage-point increase. The ratios for active applicants in the match were 1.0, 1.2, and 1.4, respectively.

The overall filling of PGY-1 positions decreased by 2.4 percentage points, the filling of positions by U.S. seniors by 3 percentage points, and the filling by other applicants increased by 0.6 percentage points. The number of U.S. seniors who were matched in family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics decreased this year, and filling by U.S. seniors decreased. Pathology attracted 69 more seniors than last year. The most competitive programs were in emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine, and radiology. The participation of programs and positions in psychiatry, orthopedic surgery, emergency medicine, and diagnostic radiology increased considerably. The small numbers of positions in neurological surgery, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, and urology are attributable to the participation of most of these programs in non-NRMP matches.

The distribution of matched U.S. seniors among types of programs decreased in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, and general surgery, and the percentage of the class entering the support specialties increased.

An increased number of Advanced Programs for Students (PGY-2) positions were offered in the Match this year; 313 programs offered 1,536 positions, which were 71% filled by 1,092 U.S. seniors and 80% filled by 1,233 total applicants. One hundred fourteen programs in diagnostic radiology offered 423 PGY-2 positions, of

Table 1
Participation in the National Resident Matching Program in 1989

Category	U.S. Senior Students		Other U.S. and Canadian Students*		U.S. Foreign Graduates		Foreign-Born Foreign Graduates		Total Applicants	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total applicants	15,438	100.0	3,583	100.0	1,515	100.0	4,094	100.0	24,630	100.0
Withdrew	1,321	8.6	1,687	47.1	634	41.8	1,781	43.5	5,423	22.0
Active participants	14,117	91.4	1,896	52.9	881	58.2	2,313	56.5	19,207	78.0
Matched PGY-1	13,215	93.6	1,075	56.7	470	53.3	1,253	54.2	16,013	83.4
Unmatched PGY-1	902	6.4	821	43.3	411	46.7	1,060	45.8	3,194	16.6
Total	14,117	100.0	1,896	100.0	881	100.0	2,313	100.0	19,207	100.0

*Other U.S. and Canadian students consist of graduates from U.S. osteopathic schools and Canadian medical schools; physician candidates, that is, earlier U.S. graduates seeking a position in graduate medical education; and "fifth pathway" students, who are U.S. nationals who completed course requirements for a medical degree abroad followed by a year of clinical training in a U.S. hospital under medical school sponsorship.

Table 2

Positions Offered and Filled by Types of Applicants in 1989

Specialty	PGY-1 Positions Offered		Applicants Matched: U.S. Senior Students			Other U.S. Applicants‡			Foreign-Born Foreign Graduates			Total Applicants		
				%			%			%			%	
	No.	%*	No.	*	†	No.	*	†	No.	*	†	No.	*	†
Family practice	2,456	12.3	1,468	11.1	59.8	216	14.0	8.8	61	4.9	2.5	1,745	10.9	71.1
Internal medicine	7,467	37.4	4,744	35.9	63.5	550	35.6	7.4	706	56.3	9.5	6,000	37.5	80.4
Pediatrics	2,063	10.4	1,256	9.5	60.7	156	10.1	7.5	242	19.3	11.7	1,654	10.3	80.0
Obstetrics/gynecology	1,061	5.3	883	6.7	83.2	100	6.5	9.4	24	1.9	2.3	1,007	6.3	94.9
Psychiatry	1,095	5.5	722	5.5	65.9	98	6.3	8.9	77	6.1	7.0	897	5.6	81.9
Medical specialties	72	0.4	45	0.3	62.5	4	0.3	5.6	4	0.3	5.6	53	0.3	73.6
Dermatology	9	0.0	9	0.0	100.0	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	9	0.0	100.0
Neurology	44	0.2	22	0.2	50.0	4	0.3	9.1	3	0.2	6.8	29	0.2	65.9
Ophthalmology	19	0.1	14	0.1	73.7	0	0.0	—	1	0.1	—	15	0.1	78.9
General surgery	2,218	11.1	1,532	11.6	69.1	141	9.1	6.4	51	4.1	2.3	1,724	10.8	77.7
Surgical specialties	632	3.2	547	4.1	86.6	50	3.2	7.9	2	0.2	0.3	599	3.7	94.8
Neurosurgery	33	0.2	23	0.2	69.7	3	0.2	9.1	1	0.1	—	27	0.2	81.8
Orthopedic surgery	462	2.3	415	3.1	89.8	41	2.7	8.9	1	0.1	—	457	2.9	98.9
Otolaryngology	50	0.3	40	0.3	80.0	2	0.1	4.0	0	0.0	—	42	0.3	84.0
Urology	79	0.4	63	0.5	79.7	2	0.1	2.5	0	0.0	—	65	0.4	82.3
Plastic surgery	8	0.0	6	0.0	75.0	2	0.1	—	0	0.0	—	8	0.0	100.0
Support specialties	1,598	8.0	1,108	8.4	69.3	171	11.1	10.7	34	2.7	2.1	1,313	8.2	82.2
Anesthesiology	293	1.5	200	1.5	68.3	9	0.6	3.1	5	0.4	1.7	214	1.3	73.0
Emergency medicine	376	1.9	297	2.2	79.0	56	3.6	14.9	2	0.2	0.5	355	2.2	94.4
Pathology	475	2.4	253	1.9	53.3	30	1.9	6.3	22	1.8	6.3	305	1.9	64.2
Physical medicine	89	0.4	84	0.6	94.4	2	0.1	2.2	0	0.0	0.0	86	0.5	96.6
Preventive medicine	10	0.1	2	0.0	20.0	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	0.0	2	0.0	20.0
Diagnostic radiology	344	1.7	262	2.0	76.2	74	4.8	21.5	5	0.4	1.5	341	2.1	99.1
Therapeutic radiology	10	0.1	9	0.1	90.0	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	0.0	9	0.1	90.0
Nuclear medicine	1	0.0	1	0.0	100.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.0	100.0
Transitional	1,288	6.5	910	6.9	70.7	59	3.8	4.6	52	4.2	4.0	1,021	6.4	79.3
Total	19,955	100.0	13,215	100.0	66.2	1,545	100.0	7.7	1,253	100.0	6.3	16,013	100.0	80.2

*Percentage distributions of positions offered and filled among specialties (percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding).
†Percentage of positions offered in specialty that were filled by applicants.
‡This category consists of those students listed in the footnote to Table 1 plus U.S. foreign medical graduates.

which 76% were filled with U.S. senior students and 17% with physician applicants, for a total filling of 93%. One hundred nine programs in anesthesiology offered 760 positions, of which 537 (71% were filled with U.S. senior students and 35 (4%) with other applicants, for a total of 75%. Ninety-one percent of these senior students were also matched to PGY-1 positions in the Match.

In the 1989 Match, 842 individuals participated as 421 couples; 96% of these U.S. students were successfully matched.

Several specialty matches for physician candidates were carried out by the NRMP in 1988. In the fall, 23 programs offered 50 positions in colon and rectal surgery; 100% were filled by 61% of the applicants. Late in the fall, 18 programs in emergency medicine offered 101 positions; 97% were filled by 48% of the applicants. In the specialty match for dermatology last fall, there were 535 applicants for 224 positions. A total of 222 (41%) physicians were matched to fill 99% of the positions. In June, 49 programs offered 78 positions in thoracic surgery. Of them, 90% were filled with 70 applicants (67%). Late in June, 45 vascular surgery programs offered 57 positions, of which 98% were filled with 56 (46%) of the applicants. The first hand surgery specialty Match will conclude May 17, 1989. Fifty-seven programs and 92 applicants have enrolled to date.

The Medical Specialties Matching Program (MSMP) took place last June for fellowships in all of the subspecialties of internal medicine for positions to begin in July 1989. The number of participating programs was 576 in 16 subspecialties that offered 1,351 positions. Eighty-six percent of these positions were filled by 1,162 applicants, who represented 65.2% of the active applicants; 34.8% of the applicants failed to match.

The Rank Order List Input and Confirmation System (ROLIC), in which the medical schools and teaching hospitals entered and confirmed their Rank Order Lists at some 500 sites, was used again this year. Access to an entry site was not available for 1,025 applicants that sent NRMP paper Rank Order Lists.

Data that describe the trends in numbers of positions offered and filled by U.S. seniors and other applicants have been published during the past several years as part of a larger NRMP directory, but this year are in a separate document.[2]

John S. Graettinger, M.D.

Dr. Graettinger is executive vice president, National Resident Matching Program, and professor of medicine (emeritus), Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois.

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2. *NRMP Data.* Evanston, Illinois: National Resident Matching Program, 1988.